GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:264
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2001
EXPLORATION OF OIL RESERVES
RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil reserves estimated to be available in the country at present;

(b) whether any survey or study has been/being conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the locations where oil exploration projects have been started during the last three years and the present position in respect of each project?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar)

(a): The total oil in-place as on 1.4.2000 estimated by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Joir Venture/Private companies is about 4163 million metric tonne.

(b) & (c): Reserve estimation is carried out at regular intervals using standard geo-scientific practices and considering the upto date data available from different fields.

(d) During the last three years from 1997-98 to 1999-2000 ONGC has undertaken exploration leading to drilling of 81 prospects of which 19 are hydrocarbon bearing. Out of the 19 new finds, seven are already on production and remaining are under appraisal/assessment.

As regards OIL, they have carried out exploratory drilling in 41 prospects during the period from 1997-98 to 2000-01 (upto January 2001), out of which 20 prospects were found to be hydrocarbon bearing and have since been put to production.

In so far as Private/Joint Venture operations are concerned, exploration work in terms of seismic surveys and exploratory drilling was carried out in three blocks each in Rajasthan, and Krishna-Godavari offshore, 2 blocks in Cambay offshore and one block each in Gujarat-Kutch offshore and Mumbai offshore during the three years from 1997-98 to 1999-2000 ; 9 wells were drilled during this period out of which 4 were oil/gas bearing.